

Message

From: Proto, Paul [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B2E837D7ED4826B3AC421843833318-PPROTO]
Sent: 3/31/2022 8:36:33 PM
To: Harmon, Darrel [Harmon.Darrel@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Grand Portage Comments regrading MPCAs 2022 303(d) impaired waters list

Thanks Darrel. Similar to the previous MPCA to 1854 email, I will file it away in the Administrative Record.

No need for you to do anything with these.

There may be another one headed your way (at least another which you will be copied on) to Fond du Lac.

Paul Proto | Environmental Scientist | U.S. EPA, Region 5, Water Division, Watersheds & Wetlands Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., WW-16J | Chicago, IL 60604 | 312-353-8657 (Office) | proto.paul@epa.gov

From: Harmon, Darrel <Harmon.Darrel@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Proto, Paul <proto.paul@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Grand Portage Comments regrading MPCAs 2022 303(d) impaired waters list

Hi Paul – here is another one. Let me know if you prefer different routing.

Thanks Darrel

From: Cole, William (MPCA) <william.cole@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 3:24 PM
To: mwatkins@grandportage.com
Cc: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>; Waquiui, Helen (MPCA) <helen.waquiui@state.mn.us>; Kessler, Katrina (MPCA) <katrina.kessler@state.mn.us>; Harrington, Bradley (DNR) <Bradley.Harrington@state.mn.us>; Harmon, Darrel <Harmon.Darrel@epa.gov>; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; April McCormick <aprilm@grandportage.com>
Subject: RE: Grand Portage Comments regrading MPCAs 2022 303(d) impaired waters list

Dear Margaret,

We appreciate you taking the time to provide meaningful comments on the Draft 2022 Impaired Waters List which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has submitted today to the US EPA for their review and approval. Providing public comments, including yours, on the Draft List is an important part of gaining a better understanding of how to better protect and restore the water resources essential to all Minnesotans. Please go to [MPCA's Impaired Waters List webpage](#) to see all the comments received, [MPCA's responses](#), and updates to the [2022 Impaired Waters List](#).

If you have additional questions regarding the 2022 Impaired Waters List or the water quality assessment process, please contact myself (william.cole@state.mn.us) or Miranda Nichols (miranda.nichols@state.mn.us).

Thank you,
Bill

Bill Cole (he/him/his)

Supervisor, Water Quality Standards Unit
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
651.757.2788
william.cole@state.mn.us



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Protecting and improving the environment and enhancing human health.

From: Margaret Watkins <mwatkins@grandportage.com>

Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 11:39 AM

To: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>

Cc: Waqui, Helen (MPCA) <helen.waqui@state.mn.us>; Kessler, Katrina (MPCA) <katrina.kessler@state.mn.us>; Harrington, Bradley (DNR) <Bradley.Harrington@state.mn.us>; Harmon.Darrel@epa.gov; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; April McCormick <aprilmc@grandportage.com>

Subject: Grand Portage Comments regarding MPCAs 2022 303(d) impaired waters list

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Dear Ms. Nichols:

Please find below Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa comments regarding MPCAs 2022 draft list of impaired waters.

Bob and Dunka Bays on Birch Lake, a Kawishwi River impoundment, must be included on the 2022 impaired waters list due to concentrations of sulfate that persistently exceed the 10 mg/L criterion by more than 25% in all recent samples. These Bays are both known and documented wild rice waters. Water quality data collected from Bob and Dunka Bays is available from a variety of sources including the MPCA, USFS/USGS, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, and the 1854 Treaty Authority. Maps have been provided along with previous comments from Grand Portage demonstrating that similar sulfate concentration ranges were found from monitoring conducted by various entities in Bob and Dunka Bays.

The rationale that these Bays cannot be included on the impaired waters list because they do not have unique water identification numbers and therefore cannot be considered separate locations, or segments of the entire Kawishwi River impoundment, named Birch Lake, is a contravention of the Clean Water Act. Certainly MPCA and MN DNR can expeditiously resolve this issue by providing unique identification numbers for waterbody segments that already have unique names within Birch Lake and the Kawishwi River system.

Sincerely,

Margaret Watkins

Grand Portage Water Quality Specialist

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